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impressionist picture, but wonderfully true. He must have watched his black men with wonderful keenness. From the study of individual psychology, Cureau passes to society, studying the family and the village in a series of interesting chapters. After tracing the evolution of the village he considers it as an entity—physical, living, sentient, organized, moral. Only one who knows the African village can fully *appreciate* his descriptions, but any one can feel them. The village pulsates with life; it sees and hears, smells and touches.

The village has a keen sense of hearing. News clears the spaces of the bush with extraordinary rapidity and is diffused like a subtle breeze. It flies, one knows not how, across rivers, forests and mountains, changing its shape at every stage until nothing is left of it but an almost unrecognizable outline. Three or four hundred miles are nothing to Iris, the harbinger of the Dark Continent, but though she starts out as a goddess she ends as a fish. Take no useless precautions to disguise your progress through a district, for it seems as though the ground has some marvellous resonance, which spreads an alarm ahead of you and when you get to some strange village you find that you are already expected. The rumble of the great alarm drums, cut in the trunks of trees, escorts your caravan from village to village and their muffled blows, whose conventional rhythm is punctuated like some Morse code, rise in many an echo, now deep and heavy from the neighboring copse, and again shrill and thin from far away on the horizon of the distant plains.

In a final division our author considers social organizations superior to the village.

Only a Frenchman could have written this book. In its symmetry and even development, its terse and brilliant style, its warmth and enthusiasm, its impressionism, it is purely French. It cannot be neglected by anyone who is interested in Africa and in the evolution of society. For after all, Cureau finds his savage man in Central Africa chiefly interesting as exemplifying human cultural development in general.

FREDERICK STARR

*An Introduction to the Study of African Languages.* CARL MEINHOF.  
E. P. Dutton and Company; New York, 1915. 16°, pp. vii, 169.  
Price, \$1.75 net.

Carl Meinhof's *Introduction to the Study of African Languages* is an excellent manual and we are glad that Miss A. Werner has translated it into English. We are surprised that she did not find it convenient to preface her translation with some information regarding the work of its author. The book is composed of eight lectures, which are models

of simple, direct, and clear statement. The propriety of studying primitive languages is first discussed. They lack the series of historical examples which, nowadays, is considered essential for the study of the great literary languages, but when considered in great groups and rigidly compared they are capable of showing, among and between themselves, the course of evolution quite as clearly. The languages of Africa fall into three or four fairly marked groups, which occur in zones or belts across the continent. In the south is the great Bantu family; north of it lies the Sudan family; still further north are the Hamitic languages; besides these great families there are the languages of the Bushmen, the Pygmies and the Hottentots. Meinhof sketches the history of the language study of Africa and indicates the directions in which the best promise for future investigation lies. He presents an interesting chapter on the phonology of African tongues and the relation of their sounds to those found elsewhere. Typical sentences are examined to show the structural characteristics of the different families. Meinhof has himself made important contributions to the knowledge of both Bantu and Hamitic languages. In the later lectures he shows the practical value of the study of African philology and its usefulness to other sciences. He finally attempts to show the relations of the three great families to each other and to the languages of other continents. The book contains an excellent map, drawn up by Dr. Bernhard Struck showing the distribution of African languages so far as at present known.

FREDERICK STARR

### SOME NEW PUBLICATIONS

Bandelier, Adolf F. *The Delight Makers*. With an Introduction by Charles F. Lummis. Dodd, Mead and Co.: New York, 1916. xvii, 490 pp., 17 pls. Price, \$2.00 net.

Benedict, Laura Watson. *A Study of Bagobo Ceremonial Magic and Myth*. (Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, vol. xxv, pp. 1-308, pls. I-VIII.) New York, 1916.

Boas, Franz. *Tsimshian Mythology* (Thirty-first Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 1909-1910, pp. 27-1037, 3 pls., 24 figs.) Washington, 1916.

Carnoy, Albert J. (See Keith, A. Berriedale *and*.)

Foote, Robert Bruce. *The Foote Collection of Indian Prehistoric and Protohistoric Antiquities*. Catalogue Raisonné. (Madras Government Museum.) Madras, 1914. ix, 262 pp.